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Letter dated 13 August 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 30 May 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-30 May 2004), the total number of troops in theatre was 18,489, which includes 3,357 troops from non-NATO countries.

2. There was no change to the status of partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Security

3. The general situation in Kosovo remains relatively calm but with an underlying tension that will continue for the foreseeable future.

4. The number of violent intra- and inter-ethnic events was lower than in April 2004 and continues to decrease since the Kosovo-wide riots in March 2004. A total of seven incidents of inter-ethnic violence were reported in May 2004.

5. The threat against KFO remained relatively low throughout the month.

6. On 12 May 2004, a Kosovo Police Service officer, Illir Llapatinca, was killed in Bukos after he was involved in a domestic dispute.

7. KFOR continues operations to secure the theatre and to pre-empt or quickly respond to ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites.

Compliance by the Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Forces

8. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during May 2004.

Kosovo Protection Corps

9. The current membership of the Kosovo Protection Corps is 2,991 active members, including 131 minorities, of which 31 are Serbs. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,728 members, of which 22 are minorities. These statistics show a low rate of minorities in KPC. During May 2004, roll calls were conducted in 25 KPC units. The number of individuals on sick leave, or other, is at an acceptable level of 18 per cent.

10. The KPC training and doctrine facility in Djakovica was inaugurated and started with a course for non-commissioned officers early in May 2004.

11. On 18 May 2004, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General decided to lift the suspension of 12 KPC members and reinstated them with all rights and privileges. Those high-ranking KPC members were suspended in December 2003 pending investigations into information linking them to criminal activities. No substantive evidentiary basis was established for criminal prosecution.

Conclusion

12. On the surface, the overall situation within Kosovo continues to gradually improve. However the situation remains unstable. The threat of inter-ethnic violence and attacks against the international community still exists. The ongoing efforts by KFOR to interdict smuggling activities, particularly of weapons, continue.